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GOVERNOR OF GUAM

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### PRESS RELEASE

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### **Guam EPA partnering to clear tires, metal and other marine debris from Hagåtña Channel**

**Nov. 23, 2011** - The Guam Environmental Protection Agency (Guam EPA) in partnership with the Island Beautification Task Force, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, Port Authority of Guam (PAG), Guam Department of Agriculture, Guam Harbor Master, Guam Fisherman's Co-op, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Guam Police Department (GPD) Marine Patrol and local businesses including Mr. Rubbishman, IBC, Seawalker, Global Recycling, Micronesian Divers Association (MDA) and GMI will be conducting an in-water cleanup at the Hagåtña Boat Basin Channel.

The three-day cleanup will clear an estimated 100 tires from the channel. The dives will be conducted from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 28, Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Wednesday, Nov. 30. Individuals intending to use the Hagåtña Boat Basin area during these times are encouraged to refrain from being in the area or water during the dive operations.

"Marine debris poses a threat to our environment and a danger to those using the channel for boating, fishing or other activities," said Guam EPA Administrator Ivan Quinata. "Many communities have seen how tires and metal debris can kill corals and marine life. Getting debris out of water and ensuring it goes to the proper location is critical. This project is only possible because of the support of our federal, local and private sector partners."

The cleanup is a multi-agency community service that was organized after the issue of debris in the channel was pointed out during the International Coastal Cleanup.

Dive teams from Guam EPA, GPD and other groups will be in the water bringing tires and debris to the surface using lift bags donated by GMI. The Coast Guard will monitor boat traffic to ensure all vessels traveling in the area proceed at a "no-wake" speed. Volunteers on the shore will stage the tires and debris in containers provided by Mr. Rubbishman, who will haul the containers to Global Recycling. Lift bags for the divers to use to bring debris to the surface have been donated by GMI and air for the divers is being donated by MDA.

For more information about the briefing or the cleanup contact Tammy Jo Anderson Taft at 475-1646, 988-7582 or [TammyJoAnderson.Taft@epa.guam.gov](mailto:TammyJoAnderson.Taft@epa.guam.gov).

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